

Jessup Watson Thomas was born in Center Creek, on October 6, 1878, a son of Joseph and Margaret Watson Thomas. Joseph Thomas, his father, was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and came to Utah with the Bryant Jolley company arriving September 9, 1852. Jessup's mother, Margaret Watson, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Jessup was left an orphan at the age of seven but, coming from a large family of eleven, there were older brothers and sisters to take care of him.

Young Jessup was only exposed to an education. The long hike to the school located four miles from his home, early spring and late fall work, and the heavy snows of winter took him away from his school work much of the time.

At the age of twelve he was introduced to the work that he was to follow for many years of his life—he began to work with sheep. His first job was with George Coleman which took him into the Tooele area. For two years he helped care for the Coleman herds. The summer and winter ranges were not far apart in those days, the summer range being in the vicinity of Grantsville and the winter range just south in the Dugway region.

After two years of working for George Coleman, Jessup went to work for John Austin, a brother-in-law, and for the next twelve years stayed with the sheep most of the time.

It was at this time, after he worked for John Austin, that Jessup went into business for himself. He took his pay in sheep and from this beginning he became one of the leading ranchers in the State of Utah.

His sheep were summered in the area of Current Creek in Wasatch County, and the West Fork area on the Duchesne River and were trailed to the wintering grounds near Dugway and the Keg Mountains in western Utah. Wintering was also done in the area

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east and south of Myton in Duchesne County.

Aside from what Jessup Thomas contributed to the livestock industry, he has also endeared himself in the hearts of all who have known him. Besides raising two families of his own he also gave several other boys and girls the comforts of his home. He afforded them with the necessary things of life and helped them to receive educations.

It is a fact that Jessup has never turned an individual down who was in need and loaned money to total strangers when they stated their real needs. Because of his kindness and the helping hand he has always extended, hundreds of western people love and admire him.

On October 26, 1899 he married Eunice Lindsay and they became the parents of five children, all whom survived their mother, Eunice who died February 8, 1919. The children of this union are Alta Eliza, who married Dr. N. F. Hicken; Jessup Roland who married Beatrice Spencer; Ora M. who married Otto E. Johnsen; Darrell died at the age of thirteen and Velda who died at the age of 22 months.

In 1921 Jessup married Irene Cope and five children were born to this marriage. They are Ina who married Earl Van Tassell; Weston who married Alice Marie Buckalew; Irene who married Earl Griffiths; Royal Cope, and Linda Lee who married Dale Gines.